

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-3, 10 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 4 and 12-14 as follows:

Claims 1-3: (Currently Canceled).

b. 4. (Presently Amended): The method for analyzing ~~n~~ an intestinal bacterial flora according to claim ~~3~~ 5, wherein said probes are arranged on specific positions in a detector.

5. (Previously Amended): A method for analyzing an intestinal bacterial flora of a subject, comprising:

a nucleic acid amplifying step of amplifying nucleic acid of an intestinal bacterial group in a sample extracted from the subject with a specific PCR primer; and

an analysis step of analyzing the intestinal bacterial flora on the basis of an amplified fragment obtained in said nucleic acid amplifying step, wherein

hybridization with said amplified fragment is performed using a plurality of probes so that analysis of the intestinal bacterial flora is performed based upon presence/absence of formation thereof in said analyzing step, and

said probes are arranged on specific positions in a detector.

6. (Previously Amended): The method for analyzing an intestinal bacterial flora according to claim 4 or 5, wherein nucleic acid amplified from each intestinal bacterium with the PCR primer employed in said nucleic acid amplifying step is used as a probe.

7. (Previously Amended): The method for analyzing an intestinal bacterial flora according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the nucleic acid obtained in said nucleic acid amplifying step is denatured before introduction into said detector.

8. (Previously Amended): The method for analyzing an intestinal bacterial flora according to claim 4 or 5, wherein a set temperature of said detector is arbitrarily changeable according to an instruction from a temperature controller.

9. (Previously Amended): The method for analyzing an intestinal bacterial flora according to claim 5, wherein said specific PCR primer has a sequence capable of amplifying a nucleic acid region coding 16SrRNA of said intestinal bacterium.

Claims 10 and 11: (Currently Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended): The apparatus for analyzing an intestinal bacterial flora according to claim 11, wherein said hybridizer includes a DNA chip where in which is arranged a probe ~~formed by nucleic acid derived from~~ having a nucleic acid sequence occurring in the genome of the intestinal bacterial group ~~is arranged~~.

13. (Currently Amended): The apparatus for analyzing an intestinal bacterial flora according to claim 11, wherein said hybridizer includes a detector where a specific probe ~~formed by nucleic acid derived from the~~ having a nucleic acid sequence occurring in the genome of the intestinal bacterial group is arranged on a specific position.

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conc 14. (Currently Amended): The apparatus for analyzing an intestinal bacterial flora according to claim 13, wherein:

said nucleic acid amplifier comprises a PCR primer; and
said probe is obtained by amplifying nucleic acid amplified from each intestinal bacterium
the intestinal bacterial group with a said PCR primer employed in said nucleic acid amplifier is used
as a probe.

15. (Original): The apparatus for analyzing an intestinal bacterial flora according to claim 13, wherein a DNA denaturation part that denatures nucleic acid is provided on a front stage of said detector.

16. (Original): The apparatus for analyzing an intestinal bacterial flora according to claim 13, comprising a temperature controller capable of arbitrarily changing a set temperature of said detector.